

December 2014



Hello All!

We want to wish you each a safe and happy New Year, and we'd like to thank you for your continued support of the Ada County Community Paramedic Program. Here is what the Community Paramedics have been working on recently:

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinics - Pacific Source Health Plans:

In September, the Ada County Community Paramedics partnered with Pacific Source Health Plans (PSHP) to put on two 6-hour health screening and seasonal flu vaccination clinics for PSHP members age 65 and older. The health screenings included blood pressure/pulse oximetry screenings and a nationally recognized "Get-up and Go" test to assess mobility. The clinics also offered information booths from the Boise YMCA, Friends in Action, and our own Ada County Paramedics VitalRide Ambulance Membership program. Over the course of two clinics, 124 PSHP members participated in the health screenings and vaccinations. Participants were asked to complete a survey about their experience using a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the least satisfied and 10 being most satisfied. Survey questions ranged from wait time satisfaction to personnel customer service. 57% of participants completed the survey and the lowest rating received was an 8, with most participants giving a rating of 9 or 10 for all questions. Please see the attached pictures of this event. In addition to Pacific Source Health Plans, partners for this event included:

Ladd Family Pharmacy – <http://www.laddfamilyrx.com/>

Friends in Actions - <http://www.fiaboise.org/>

Boise YMCA - <http://www.ymcatvidaho.org/>

VitalRide Ambulance Membership - <https://adacounty.id.gov/paramedics/VitalRide-Ambulance-Membership>

Ada County Community Paramedics Mobile Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinics:

The Community Paramedic Program partnered with the Ada County Benefits Team to administer seasonal flu vaccinations to Ada County Employees again this October. By having a Mobile Vaccination Clinic and administering the vaccination at various employee work locations, the Community Paramedics were able to vaccinate over 800 employees. This is approximately 50% of the total full time employee population. This year, the Community Paramedics also had a goal of increasing the number of employees who participated in blood pressure screenings offered at each clinic. This year, 283 employees participated in blood pressure screenings. The goal for next year will be to have 400 employees participate.

Ada County Employee Bio-Metric Health Screenings:

Ada County Community Paramedics partnered with the Ada County Benefits Team and Saint Alphonsus Health System to administer bio-metric health screenings to Ada County employees. These screenings included blood tests; consisting of a cardiac risk panel and Hemoglobin A1C, blood pressure acquisition, and height/weight acquisition. The goal was to inform employees about their current health status and to assist the Ada County Benefits Team in designing a health benefits package that will better serve the employee population's needs. A total of 745 employees completed the screenings. The Ada County Benefits team will be sending out satisfaction/experience surveys to all employees who participated in the screenings in the New Year. We will let you know the results.

Involuntary Mental Hold Emergency Department Diversion Pilot Program – Phase II:

The Community Paramedics are active with Phase II of the Involuntary Mental Hold Emergency Department Diversion Pilot Program. Phase II began on September 9th with the Community Paramedics working daily from 4:00PM until midnight. During Phase II, Ada County Community Paramedics are partnering with law enforcement and clinicians from the Department of Health and Welfare's Mobile Crisis Unit and has formed a Psychiatric Evaluation Team (PET Team). During Phase II, the PET Team works to divert patients from the emergency department directly into a receiving mental health facility; during an acute mental health crisis. As of December 29th, the PET Team has screened 31 individuals and diverted 18 patients from the emergency department to a mental health facility.

Field Referral for At-Risk Patients:

The At-Risk Field Referral Program allows Emergency Medical Services (EMS) partners; including agency paramedics, dispatchers and police/fire personnel to refer patients they believe may benefit from health/safety resource coordination by a Community Paramedic. The goal of this program is to help individuals learn about the many community resources available and then access the resources. This program was designed to assist individuals who may have otherwise "slipped through the cracks." In 2014, EMS system partners referred 82 individuals into the program.

Ada County Community Paramedics and St Luke's Health System Partnership:

The Community Paramedic Program continues to partner with St Luke's Health System with a 30-day transitional care program. Community Paramedics work with discharged hospital patients diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF), myocardial infarction (heart attack) and/or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This year, the Community Paramedics received 43 total patient referrals from St Luke's Health System. Twenty patients accepted enrollment into the Community Paramedic Transitions Program. The other patients either refused the program, or the Community Paramedics were unable to make contact with them.

Ada County Community Paramedics' Transitions Program and Saint Alphonsus Health System:

Ada County Community Paramedics are partnering with the Saint Alphonsus Health System for a 30-day transitional care pilot program for recently discharged hospital patients diagnosed with congestive heart failure (CHF). This pilot program encompasses both Ada and Canyon Counties. During this pilot, Ada County Community Paramedics and Saint Alphonsus Health System will be tracking hospital readmission rates, patient satisfaction with the Community Paramedics' services, and the patients' ability to manage their chronic medical condition and recognize signs and symptoms, early on, that could lead to deterioration in their physical condition. The pilot began in late summer/early fall. To date, the Community Paramedics have received 7 patient referrals. 4 of these patients accepted enrollment into the program. The first of these patients was just discharged from the program in December!

New Community Paramedic:

Last year, the Community Paramedic Program selected three field paramedics to participate in a nationally accredited community paramedic certification program through Hennepin Technical College, which began in January 2014. We would like to congratulate Rachel Satterwhite on her promotion to a full time Community Paramedic. Brandon Larosa and Jana Reed, the other field paramedics participating in the certification program, are actively involved in current pilot programs and will be next in line for promotion.

Ada County Community Paramedics and Social Media:

The Ada County Community Paramedic Program will continue to post program updates on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Please feel free to visit us at:

Facebook – www.facebook.com/AdaCountyParamedic

Twitter – www.twitter.com/AdaParamedics

Pinterest – www.pinterest.com/AdaCountyEMS/

Pinterest Community Paramedics Board – www.pinterest.com/AdaCountyEMS/ada-county-community-paramedic-program/

We would like to thank you all for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, or if you would like to receive more information about any of the above updates. We are looking forward to an exciting new year to come.

Best Regards,

Ada County Community Paramedics

*For more information about the Ada County Paramedics Community Paramedicine EMS Program
email CommunityParamedics@adaweb.net.*